

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 261710Z MAR 75
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 835
INFO USDELMBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T USNATO 1664

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: TRILATERALS ON OPTION III

REF: USNATO 1583

1. ASSISTANT SYG FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS (KASTL) HAS PRIVATELY SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. BRIEF LUNS GENERALLY ON RECENT U.S.-UK-FRG TRILATERALS. KASTL (WHO APPARENTLY KNOWS DETAILS OF TRIALATERALS THROUGH FRG DELEGATION) BELIEVES THAT SINCE LUNS IS AWARE THAT U.S., UK, AND FRG ARE CONSULTING TRILATERALLY, IT WOULD BE A COURTESY TO BRIEF THE LATTER PRIOR TO INFORMING THE OTHER ALLIES ON CONTENT. POLAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH UK DCM(LOGAN), WHO THOUGHT THAT BETTER COURSE WAS NOT TO BRIEF LUNS BUT SIMPLY TO INFORM ALLIES IN LOW KEY MANNER IN SPC THAT U.S., UK, AND FRG HAD BEEN REVIEWING OPTION III, AND THE U.S. EXPECTED TO BRING IT INTO NATO IN NEAR FUTURE. LOGAN HAS SINCE INFORMED US THAT AMBASSADOR PECK AGREED WITH LATTER COURSE, AND UK DELEGATION WAS SENDING CABLE RECOMMENDING THAT UK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON MAKE THIS SUGGESTION TO U.S. OFFICIALS. LOGAN DID NOT KNOW IF UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON WOULD DO SO.

2. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL FOR U.S. TO GIVE LUNS A SUBSTANTIVE BRIEFING ON STATE OF OPTION III, UNTIL U.S. HAS DIGESTED RESULTS OF RECENT TRILATERAL EXPERTS

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MEETING, AND DECIDED ON ITS OWN SUBSTANTIVE POSITION AND TIMING. IT MIGHT HOWEVER, BE USEFUL TO GIVE LUNS AN ADVANCE, GENERAL INDICATION THAT U.S. IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING OPTION III, HAS CONSULTED UK AND FRG, AND INTENDS TO BRING IT INTO THE ALLIANCE

SOON.

3. THE COURSE SUGGESTED BY UK DELEGATION WOULD INFORM THE ALLIES OF WHAT THEY MUST ALREADY KNOW OR SUSPECT, AND COULD HELP DETER PREMATURE STUDIES (E.G. PARAS 9 AND 16, REFTEL), BUT THIS COURSE WOULD ALSO PUT US UNDER INCREASED PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY FROM BELGIANS AND DUTCH, FOR EARLY INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III INTO NATO. IF U.S. BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO INTRODUCE OPTIONS III IN NATO WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS, MISSION WOULD SEE MERIT IN UK SUGGESTION. OTHERWISE WE WOULD CONSIDER IT INADVISABLE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON THE KASTL AND UK SUGGESTIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO01664
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750398/abbrzih.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: USNATO 1583
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <08 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: TRILATERALS ON OPTION III
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE INFO VIENNA
BONN
LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006